

The United Church of Canada

Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst - South Tetagouche United Church

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

January 31, 2010

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organists** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston Joseph MacDonald
Custodian Alan Wilcox **Greeters** Mae & Byron Branch

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)</i>
<i>Psalms 71</i>	<i>Psalms 138</i>
<i>I Corinthians 13:1-13</i>	<i>I Corinthians 15:1-11</i>
<i>Luke 4:21-30</i>	<i>Luke 5:1-11</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome to our men's choir who will be leading us in our ministry of music today.

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** 'Arise, Your Light Is Come' (#79 VU vs1)
Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Welcoming:

Ever-present God, this day enfolds us and surrounds us:
be in our speaking and in our thinking;
be in our life and on our lips;
be in our hearts and in our souls, this day and forever.

Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: Behold, as we light the Christ Candle we are aware that God is doing something new ...

All: Here. Now. In the midst of daily life.

One: The Holy One who created heaven and earth forms us afresh today. Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker.

Call to Worship:

One: We have been called the salt of the earth.

All: Let us remain distinctive and salty.

One: We have been called the light of the world.

All: Let us shine brightly in the midst of pain or confusion.

One: We have been called a city set on a hill.

All: Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, lift our hearts, lift our voices in the worship of God.

Prayer of Approach:

(facing east)

One: From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(facing south)

One: From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(facing west)

One: From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(facing north)

One: From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(facing upward)

One: From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of your breath, and messages from your winged creatures.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(facing downward)

One: From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

All: We are grateful for your creation, Mother Earth, O God.

**May we walk good paths, O God,
Living on this earth as brothers and sisters should;
Rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathizing in
one another's sorrows, and together with you,
renewing the face of the earth.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'* #220 VU

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

Eternal God, who caused all scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

BCP 16th Century

Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 1:4-10 Isabel MacLaggan*

***Responsive Psalm:** *Psalm #71 Part #1 #789 VU
Isabel MacLaggan*

Choral Response: #951 VU

***Holy, holy, holy,
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, God.***

Gospel Reading: *Luke 4:21-30 Isabel MacLaggan*

***Hymn:** *'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness'* #375 VU

Message: "The Stranger of Galilee"

Anthem:

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

***Choral Response:**

***Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
The Holy Child is born again***

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Holy God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as liberation and peace, we are a people divided against ourselves, as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasure we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbour set neighbour against neighbour, and nation against nation. We abuse your gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love.

Choral Response: *'Kyrie Eleison'* #68 MV

***Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
O God have mercy, O God have mercy,
O God have mercy, have mercy on us.***

Pastoral Prayer:

One: We call to mind our concerns and commitments, and join our prayers for peace and well-being to the prayers of the whole church as they are offered this day for the whole world.

Let us pray:

All: We remember the people we know who are in trouble, and pray for healing and happiness for all.

(silence)

We seek God's encouragement: for honest trade and just commerce; for medicine and education; for the gifts and aptitudes in every person which serve justice in community living.

(silence)

We pray for peace on earth: for the generous sharing of the earth's resources and the responsible sharing of the earth's problems; for the understanding of others and willingness to regard the diversity of human culture as more stimulating than threatening; for the turning of swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

(silence)

We pray for the church, by all its names and in all its places: for its continuing usefulness as a channel of grace and hope; for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation; for its witness to unity and justice; for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.

(silence)

We commend to the Lord our families and friends; and let us ask God to help us in the days of this coming week.

(silence)

Amen

Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Lord, Speak to Me'* **#589 VU**

Commissioning: (in unison)

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us. The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us. Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding and forgiving.

Blessing:

Light of God to give us hope

Power of God to protect us

Light of God to give us joy

Peace of God to calm us

Light of God to give us faith

Grace of God to save us

This day and forevermore.

Go in Peace, Go with God.

***Choral Closing**

When you walk from here,

When you walk from here,

Walk with justice, walk with mercy,

And with God's humble care.

Organ Postlude:

Mission and Service at Work

Our denomination continues to work with diverse faith communities to promote peace and understanding and the end of hostilities in the Middle East. Mission and Service is our united fund to support this united vision.

Church News:

This Week at First United – Feb. 1 – Feb. 6

Monday	9:00	Ways & Means- Eddy Room
	1:30	UCW – Eddy Room
	6:15	Beavers & Cubs
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do Drop in – Fellowship Room
	1:30-3:30	Bible Study - Eddy Room
Wednesday	9:00-12:00	TAB
	6:30	Choir

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **107**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

Men's Group: Wayne Clowater (547-1884) is interested in starting a group for men that will meet at the same time as TAB. Those interested in playing crib or 45s please call Wayne. It will only start if there is enough interest shown.

The UCW annual Valentine Luncheon and Bake Sale are being held on Friday, February 12, 2010 from 12-1:30 pm. Tickets are available from UCW members or the church office. Contributions of food items, from any member of the congregation, for the bake table would very much be appreciated. These items can be dropped off Thursday afternoon – February 11. All tickets must be purchased ahead of time as no tickets are being sold at the door! There will be no Take-outs.

Confirmation Plans are now in progress for confirmation during the Lenten Season. For those who are interested, please contact the church office at 546-3532.

The Community Outreach Sub Team has recruited Shirley Sealy & Helen M Knowles to be co-captains of a church team in the local 2010 Relay for Life to be held June 12-13 in Coronation Park. Per usual, this is an overnight event in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Those considering being team members may sign a sheet in the narthex or contact either Shirley (546-5425) or Helen (546-9563) for more information. Registration info & fundraising packages will be available later.

Hospitality and Friendship Team are looking for conveners for the Sunday morning coffee hour. Sign up sheet are in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Upcoming Community Events

Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Meal of the Month

Feb. 07,2010 –Roast Pork Supper with all the trimmings, tea, coffee and dessert. Serving at 5:00 p.m. Takeouts available. Tickets \$12. Elevator service available

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

- The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unit (January 17 - 24) will be observed in our city with a Bilingual Ecumenical Worship Service to be held at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral on Sunday, January 31 at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome and cordially invited to attend. This year's theme is "You are Witnesses."

Casserole Supper/Entertainment:

Central United Church, Clifton

Saturday, February 13, 6pm. Storm date, February 20, 6pm.

Adults \$10.00 Children (under 12) \$5.00

For tickets call Bonnie Wiseman 546-3908, Darlene Wilks 546-8213,

Joanne Wiseman 546-3690 or Kay Morrison 546-6012

Upcoming First United Events

Feb. 12,2010 – Valentine Luncheon

Feb. 25,2010 – Ham and Scallop Supper

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (New International Version)

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew ^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

⁶ "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

Luke 4:21-30 (New International Version)

²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' "

²⁴ "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy^[a] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.